

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Original) A method for distributing packages or similar dispatched articles, the method comprising the steps of:
 - acquiring packages that are to be transported from private senders and/or commercial senders to an addressee at collecting locations;
 - providing the packages at the collecting locations with a package code containing at least an address and a package number as electronically detectable data;
 - supplying the collected packages to a HUB center that is associated with the collecting locations
 - combining in the HUB center the package codes with data sets comprising measurement data (length, width, height, weight), geo coordinates (addressees) and identification data of the packages, respectively, to controllable package routing codes, respectively;
 - supplying the package routing codes of all the packages to a central computer arranging the packages according to output signals that are generated by a program of the central computer and that effect a dynamically optimizable route planning in a sorted package sequence sorted in accordance with distribution zones;
 - introducing the sorted package sequence and the package routing codes into transport boxes in a distribution-compatible sorted arrangements;
 - transferring the transport boxes onto a vehicle;
 - delivering automatically controlled the packages by a navigation-controlled distribution to the addressee, respectively.
2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the data sets comprising the measurement data, geo coordinates, and identification data are acquired already at the collecting locations, at a client, or directly at the sender, are transmitted to the central

computer, and, subsequently, the data sets are checked when the packages arrive in the HUB center.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein several of the HUB center are controlled by the central computer.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of supplying the packages in the HUB center by computer control to an intermediate storage facility having defined storage locations, storing the packages in the intermediate storage facility within a predetermined time window, and, subsequently, removing the packages in a distribution-compatible sequence.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein in each of the collecting locations that are decentralized, the packages are provided with a machine-readable information carrier,

the respective package code is electronically acquired as identification information and supplied to the central computer,

the packages of the collecting locations are transported in a transport box to a common trans-shipment center,

from the trans-shipment center, the packages as a random transport quantity are transported in the transport box to the HUB center, in the HUB center, the package codes are read into a HUB computer for checking completeness of the packages,

the package routing codes are generated from the package codes and the data sets as an electronically checked package routing code, respectively,

the package routing codes are supplied to the central computer and processed in accordance with the dynamically optimizable route planning, computed data of the dynamically optimizable route planning are transmitted to the HUB computer and to the trans-shipment centers contained within the dynamically optimizable route planning,

the packages are arranged in package stacks in a transport-compatible way in a last-in-first-out arrangement,

one or several of the generated package stacks are removed from the HUB center, the package stacks are introduced into transport boxes and are transported by a transport vehicle to the trans-shipment center, in the trans-shipment center the package stacks are transferred to a distribution vehicle,

the distribution vehicle receives the package routing codes of one or several package stacks contained in the transport boxes from the central computer, subsequently, by means of a distribution route that is controlled by a navigation system, the packages are delivered to the addressee with the optimized route planning, and

the package routing codes are compared with test data.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the dynamically optimized route planning is performed by the central computer in a time window that enables delivery of the packages on a day following the day of acquiring the packages.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, the collecting locations are the addresses of the senders and the packages are picked up by a pickup service and are provided by the pickup service with an information carrier receiving the packaging codes.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the packages are supplied from the collecting locations directly to the HUB center.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the central computers is provided with programs into which a complete address list, postal codes to be correlated therewith, and actual geo coordinates are entered.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein with the programs of the central computer respective limit ranges of the package dimensions, a maximum number

of packages that can be delivered in a package stack or in the transport box, and a time window for package delivery can be predetermined.

11. (Original) A device for distributing packages or similar dispatched articles for performing the method according to claim 1, the device comprising:

a HUB center and in the area of the HUB center measuring device comprising sensor units for detecting identification data, package sizes (length, width, height, weight), addresses and geo coordinates, respectively;

a central computer, wherein measured data measured by the measuring device are supplied to the central computer correlating the measured data to the packages as package routing codes such that by means of the measured data processed by the central computer in the HUB center a control action is effected with which the packages are transferable in an ordered sequence into at least one vehicle and the packages are distributable by a route planning that is dynamically optimized by the package routing codes.

12. (Original) The device according to claim 11, wherein, for detecting and identifying the packages by package codes, a transponder as an information carrier is secured on the packages, wherein data of the transponder are acquired in the area of the HUB center that is configured as a sorting location and has a HUB computer with a stored-program control unit connected to the central computer, which HUB computer for handling the packages interacts respectively with sensor devices, controlled storage devices, packing devices, and distribution systems on the basis of the geo coordinates.

13. (Original) The device according to claim 12, wherein the sensor units are arranged in the HUB center in the area of an arrival conveying stretch and individually measure the packages, wherein comparing and measuring results of the sensor units are transmitted in the form of the package routing codes to the transponder forming the information carrier and to the HUB computer.

14. (Original) The device according to claim 11, wherein the HUB center in the area of an exit conveying stretch is provided with a packing device and a support device receiving package stacks contained in a transport box.

15. (Original) The device according to claim 11, wherein as a support device for sorted package stacks a transport box having standardized dimensions is provided.

16. (Original) The device according to claim 11, wherein selected packages in the area upstream of a packing device pass through a transport system that distributes the packages in a targeted way for transfer into transport boxes.

17. (Original) The device according to claim 11, wherein the package routing codes generated in the central computer for a transport box, respectively, are transmitted wireless or by a data storage medium onto a terminal device provided in a distribution vehicle.

18. (Original) The device according to claim 17, wherein a navigation system or auxiliary devices with an application for geo coordinates that is integrated into the distribution vehicle are connectable to the terminal device.

19. (Original) The device according to claim 17, wherein the terminal device has an input part that acknowledges the delivery of the package.

Please add the following claims:

20. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the steps of: combining the package codes, supplying the package routing codes, or introducing the sorted package sequence and the package routing codes occurs on a predetermined periodic basis.

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Page : 7 of 10

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21. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein the period of the predetermined periodic basis is daily.

22. (New) The device according to claim 11, wherein the control action is performed on a predetermined periodic basis.

23. (New) The device according to claim 22, wherein the period of the predetermined periodic basis is daily.